IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7, 14 and 18 as follows.

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a recording apparatus comprising:

a first input unit that inputs camera information and picture taking information;

a first generator that generates a file from the camera information and picture taking information received from the first input unit;

a recording device configured to store the file generated by the first generator ~~an image file including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information~~;

~~a description device configured to describe the attribute information using tags defined by a tag-definable markup language;~~

an encryption ~~encryption-and-compression~~ device configured to encrypt ~~and compress part or all of~~ the stored camera and picture taking information ~~tagged attribute information described by the description device~~;

a maker note generator that generates encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

a second input unit that inputs the camera information and the picture taking information;

a second generator that generates image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input from the second input unit and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generator;

a third input unit that inputs a compressed image data;

a third generator that generates an image file from the compressed image data received from the third input unit and the image attribute data received from the second generator that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input from the second input unit and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generator; and

a ~~writing~~ storing device configured to store the image file generated by the third generator ~~write the attribute information encrypted and compressed by the encryption-and-compression device into an arbitrary attribute area~~; and

a playback device comprising:

a separation device configured to separate image data and the image attribute data ~~information~~ included in the stored image file;

a first extraction device configured to extract the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

a decryption ~~decompression-and-decryption~~ device configured to ~~decompress and~~ decrypt the extracted, encrypted maker note data ~~and compressed part of the attribute information separated by the separation means~~;

a style-sheet input device configured to input style sheet data;

a second ~~an~~ extraction device ~~is~~ configured to receive the input style sheet data and the decrypted maker note data and to extract display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the style sheet data ~~selectively extract attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information~~; and

a display device configured to display the display data ~~image and the selectively-extracted tagged attribute information~~.

8 - 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

a recording operation comprising the steps of:

inputting camera information and picture taking information in a first instance;

generating a file from the camera information and picture taking information received inputted in said inputting step;

storing ~~an image~~ the file generated in said generating step ~~including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information~~;

~~describing the attribute information using tags defined by a tag-definable markup language;~~

encrypting the stored camera information and picture taking information ~~and compressing part or all of the tagged attribute information described in the description step~~;

generating encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

inputting the camera information and the picture taking information in a second instance;

generating image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by said maker note generating step;

inputting compressed image data;

generating an image file from the compressed image data input by the compressed-data inputting step and the image attribute data generated in the attribute-date generating step that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generating step; and

storing the image file generated in the image-file generating step ~~writing the tagged attribute information encrypted and compressed in the encryption-and-compression step into an arbitrary attribute area~~; and

a playback operation comprising the steps of:

separating image data and the image attribute data ~~information~~ included in the stored image file;

extracting the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

~~decompressing and~~ decrypting the extracted, encrypted maker note data ~~and compressed part of the attribute information separated by the separation step~~;

inputting style sheet data;

extracting display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the inputted style sheet data ~~selectively extracting attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information~~; and

displaying the display data ~~image and the selectively-extracted tagged attribute information~~.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, for causing a computer to execute a procedure comprising the steps of:

a recording operation comprising the steps of:

inputting camera information and picture taking information in a first instance;

generating a file from the camera information and picture taking information received inputted in said inputting step;

storing ~~an image~~ the file generated in said generating step ~~including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information~~;

~~describing the attribute information using tags defined by a tag-definable markup language;~~

encrypting the stored camera information and picture taking information ~~and compressing part or all of the tagged attribute information described in the description step~~;

generating encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

inputting the camera information and the picture taking information in a second instance;

generating image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by said maker note generating step;

inputting compressed image data;

generating an image file from the compressed image data input by the compressed-data inputting step and the image attribute data generated in the attribute-date generating step that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generating step; and

storing the image file generated in the image-file generating step; and

a playback operation comprising the steps of:

separating image data and the image attribute data ~~information~~ included in the stored image file;

extracting the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

~~decompressing and~~ decrypting the extracted, encrypted maker note data ~~and compressed part of the attribute information separated by the separation means~~;

inputting style sheet data;

extracting display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the inputted style sheet data ~~selectively extracting attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information~~; and

displaying the display data ~~image and the selectively-extracted tagged attribute information~~.

19 - 21 (Canceled)